

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /070 W
-----040305Z 114051 /15

R 031833Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0308

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3244

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: OVIP, SHUM, PINS, ELAB, AR (GROSSMAN, AMERICO)
SUBJECT: FURTHER REPORT ON RESULTS OF GROSSMAN'S VISIT TO BUENOS AIRES
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REF: BUENOS AIRES 3193

1. JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON GROSSMAN GAVE US FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING RESULTS OF ADMIRAL MENDIA'S BRIEF VISIT TO BUENOS AIRES. ACCORDING TO GROSSMAN, MENDIA MET IN A JOINT SESSION WITH GENERAL VIOLA AND HIGH-RANKING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE GENERAL STAFFS AT WHICH, OR AFTER WHICH, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BY THE THREE SERVICES TO JOINTLY STUDY AND DRAFT GUIDELINES TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE ARMED FORCES IN FUTURE ARREST CASES. GROSSMAN'S INFORMATION, WHICH EVIDENTLY CAME FROM MARINE CORPS COMMANDANT ADMIRAL FRACASSI, IS THAT THERE IS AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE THAT THE SECURITY FORCES SHOULD PROPERLY IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AND FOLLOW OTHER ELEMENTARY PROCEDURES WHEN EFFECTING ARRESTS, IN ORDER TO AVOID FURTHER ABUSES. A SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTEDLY IS TO BE ESTABLISHED TO DRAW UP THE GUIDELINES. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO FRACASSI, THESE GUIDELINES WILL NOT BE APPLICABLE TO TERRORISTS (FOR WHOM THE OBJECTIVE PRESUMABLY CONTINUES TO BE OUTRIGHT LIQUIDATION). IT WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY CLEAR FROM GROSSMAN'S ACCOUNT AS TO WHICH CATEGORY

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OF POTENTIAL PRISONERS THE NEW SAFEGUARDS WOULD BE APPLICABLE. GROSSMAN DID NOT SAY THAT THE NEW SAFEGUARDS WOULD BE APPLICABLE. GROSSMAN DID NOT SAY THAT THE NEW GUIDELINES WOULD GO INTO EFFECT AUTOMATICALLY AFTER THEY HAD BEEN DRAFTED. HE DID NOT KNOW ALL THE STEPS THAT HAD TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE SUCH A PLAN COULD BECOME A REALITY, BUT VIEWED THE INFORMATION AS AN ENCOURAGING, TENTATIVE FIRST STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

2. GROSSMAN SAYS HIS IMPRESSION IS THAT THE ARMED FORCES WANT TO CLOSE THE BOOK ON ATROCITIES ALREADY COMMITTED AND HENCEFORTH ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW A NEW CODE OF CONDUCT--AT LEAST FOR CERTAIN DEFINABLE CATEGORIES OF CASES. HE HAD BEEN TOLD DURING HIS VISIT HERE THAT THERE HAD BEEN INSTANCES IN WHICH PUNISHMENT HAD BEEN METED OUT TO SECURITY AGENTS WHO HAD COMMITTED ABUSES, BUT INEXPLICABLY THE ARMED FORCES WERE NOT PREPARED TO PUBLICIZE THESE CASES. NEVERTHELESS, HE ASSERTED THAT MILITARY OFFICERS APPEARED TO JUSTIFY CONTINUED USE OF "SPECIAL METHODS" TO AVOID, FOR EXAMPLE, TRAGIC INCIDENTS SUCH AS THAT IN WHICH THE DAUGHTER OF AN AIR FORCE BRIGADIER REPORTEDLY WAS ABLE TO SMUGGLE INTO, AND SET OFF AN EXPLOSIVE IN AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

3. AS REPORTED IN SEPTEL, GROSSMAN'S INFORMATION CONCERNING THE RELEASE ORDER FOR EX-SENATOR SOLARI IRIGOYEN HAS PROVEN TO BE ACCURATE, ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE GROSSMAN HAS EXAGGERATED SOMEWHAT HIS OWN ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT. WE ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE EARLY APPEARANCE OF A NEW CODE OF CONDUCT TO BE FOLLOWED IN ARREST CASES.

4. GROSSMAN ALSO SAID THAT HE DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME TO RAISE DORA GOLDFARB'S CASE WITH APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES BEFORE FLIGHT TIME.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, VISITS
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Sent Date: 03-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
From: BUENOS AIRES
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TAGS: OVIP, SHUM, PINS, ELAB, AR, (GROSSMAN, AMERICO)
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